



Volume 48, No. 4

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth..."

December 27, 2017

Happy Holidays!



In This Issue...

Tolliver
Page 3

Steel's
Goodbye
Page 5



Sykes'
Quest
Page 5

Fro and
Fashions
Page 6



The Soulcial Scene

2017 Senior Holiday Party

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Area Office on Aging held its annual Holiday Party on December 8 at The Premiere on Heatherdowns. As usual approximately 700 seniors attended and were treated to entertainment by DJ One TyMe, jazz stylist Ramona Collins and the Off Broadway Dance Company Dancers while also enjoying lunch and the company of hundreds of others friends and acquaintances.

Billie Johnson, president and CEO of Area Office on Aging, acknowledged the event sponsors in her greeting – Buckeye Broadband, Simply EZ Meals and StoryPoint Waterville.



Ramona Collins



CEO Billie Johnson and Board Chairman Bill Harris



Community Calendar

December 26-29

51st Annual Kwanzaa Anniversary Celebration: 5 pm nightly vendors start; 6 pm nightly – program starts; Frederick Douglass Community Association

December 28

The Padua Center will also be hosting a Christmas Open House: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

January 1, 2018

Happy New Year!

January 15-16

Lourdes University MLK Tribute: 8:30 am Mass on Monday; 4:30 pm Commemoration and Prayer Service in honor of MLK in Mother Adelaide Hall

January 27

2018 Gospel Extravaganza and Vendor Fair: Warren AME; 2 pm for Vendor Fair; UT Gospel Choir and Positive Force Christian School of Dance: For program participation call 419-967-1414 or 419-377-0115; For free booth call 567-408-8347 or 419-381-1558

The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African American
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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Becky McQueen - Business Manager

Tricia Hall – Reporter

Rev. D.L. Perryman – Columnist

Megan Davis – Columnist

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A Certified MBE

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Odds and Ends for the Year ...

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

When I write commentary, sometimes some things are just a mere too short as to compose a column length. So, I decided to place some thoughts, in passing, so that you can maybe run with them...or not.

One: There has been media commentary about some white evangelicals chafing at the bit about Trump's decision to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

They wrongly believe that such a move will trigger end-time events that will lead to the Battle of Armageddon and that battle will usher in the second coming of Christ.

For those who are dancing in their pews about this move of the embassy to Jerusalem, they should maybe take about a half hour to read Biblical prophecy in context and they then will have to dash their dreams of seeing an imminent return of Jesus to planet Earth.

A move of a US embassy to Jerusalem and also acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is not remotely listed in the Bible as a trigger point for the Battle of Armageddon.

That non-Biblical gibberish is an example of a brutal mis-contextualization of scriptures in order to serve a personal deviant belief.

According to the Bible, Jesus' return is not based on such a geographical move but rather on a basketful of events that must gel together before such a return takes place.

To single out this embassy move as the incipient move is sheer folly and only muddies up the water insofar as certain evangelicals placing undue emphasis on his return rather than their righteous living; and not cheerleading an immoral person in the White House who does not know their God.

Two: If the Democrats do not wrest control of the House and the Senate in 2018 and present leadership remains intact, the GOP will feel emboldened to gut and shred monies for both Social Security (privatize it) and Medicare and Medicaid.

If that were to happen, I think that you will see the greatest outpouring of citizens both into the streets to protest this dismantling of the America's social safety net but also people being more political than ever before because they finally realize that being asleep while Trump tweets is dangerous to their finances and to their health.

Three: Also, if the GOP fringe nuts try to oust Bob Mueller, there will be a constitutional crisis never before seen since the antics of prior President Richard Nixon.

Any attempted ouster of the person appointed to uncover the depth and scope of Trump's bromance with Putin and the rigging of the recent elections will cause this country to have momentous upheavals that will rival the bitterness of the Civil War when brother was pitted against brother and a nation was tortuously divided....due to slavery.

Four: When the full effect of the recently passed draconian tax laws are known and people experience its boot on their throat, many who were blinded by all things Trump will rue the day that they howled at the moon when he was elected because it will be too late to reconsider. The die has been cast.

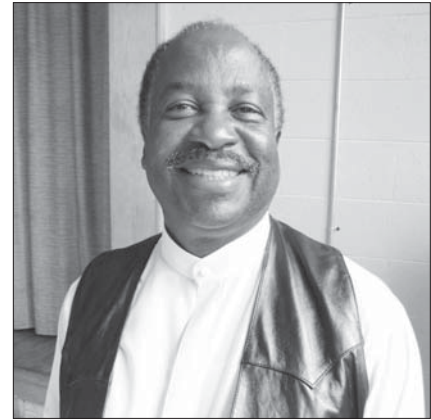
Five: With the gap between the haves and the have nots exponentially growing with each paycheck or record-paying dividend, the bottom one half of the country's working class population will start to understand why it is needed and necessary for a democracy to not have the top one per centers control the majority of the wealth in this country.

The one per centers are not trickle downers who want to give away some of their hoard to those who are barely scraping by with life's necessities.

The richest of the rich are quite content to keep things as they are and to rely upon their bought and paid for politicians and police forces to maintain law and order while they away their time in Monaco, Mar-A-Lago, Jupiter, Florida or Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Nothing short of an economic revolution brought on by a political upheaval will cause them to realize that it is in their best interest to share a few more crumbs with the "lower" classes rather than risk being forced to live in their gated communities for fear of reprisals.

Six: According to certain polls, about 70 percent of all black babies are now born out of wedlock. It would take a month of Sundays to even begin to explain the negative ramifications such statistics have on present and future family formations for the black community.



Lafe Tolliver

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Tiffany Lewis

Tiffany Lewis is a Certified John Maxwell Speaker, Trainer & Confidence Coach and visionary of More Pink Symposium | Intentionally Ladylike. She has a passion to super charge professional women called to ministry who lack confidence by remaining in long-term committed relationships not leading into marriage.

the Author of *Need a Job? Then, Do SUMthing! Breakthrough 'Sum of Marketing Methods & Techniques'*

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Mamma Celeste Mitchell
Relationship Coach
Author of the book
Man Hunt A Manual for Women

REGISTRATION: <https://hepoppedthequestion.eventbrite.com>

House Democratic Leaders Respond to Flurry of Proposed Anti-worker Restrictions

Ohio House Democratic Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) and Democratic Assistant Whip Brigid Kelly (D-Cincinnati) issued the following joint statement last week in response to six proposed anti-worker state constitutional amendments:

"Taxpayers expect us to work together to increase opportunity and create jobs with wages and benefits that can sustain a family. These anti-worker, anti-family restrictions will do the exact opposite. Dangerous, divisive bills like these will only push our economy further out of balance and make people more poor and less safe on the job."

The restrictions, introduced by state Rep. John Becker (R- Union Township), range from Right-to-Work-is-Wrong for public and private sector workers to outlawing project labor agreements, or terms and conditions of construction projects that encourage careers in the skilled trades and ensure projects are completed on time and under budget.

Over 2 million Ohio taxpayers overwhelmingly rejected similar attacks on working people in 2011, handing the Republican legislature a 62 to 38-percent defeat at the ballot box with a citizen-led repeal of Senate Bill 5.

Kaptur Statement after Voting "No" on House Passage of GOP Tax Bill

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), last week issued the following statement after the House passed the final version of the GOP tax proposal:

"This bill does nothing to guarantee higher wages, create good jobs or even to prevent corporations from outsourcing jobs. This scam gives the bulk of its trillion-dollar windfall to real estate investors and the millionaire donor

class. Where is the middle-class windfall?

"The American people deserve better than this tax deal that was negotiated in secret and rammed through Congress in a matter of weeks. Tax cuts for the rich won't grow the economy nor will it provide relief to the millions of Ohioans who need a leg up."

Sykes Urges DeWine to Respect Court of Appeals Decision Upholding Local Hiring Standards

State Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) last week called on Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine to respect the 8th District of Ohio Court of Appeals' recent decision declaring a 2016 state law outlawing local hiring standards, House Bill 180, unconstitutional.*

"Local hiring standards represent a commitment by cities to combat underemployment and reinvest in local communities. Workers benefit from public construction projects that often include jobs with apprenticeships – clear career paths and quality on-the-job training that pay dividends beyond the duration of a single project," Sykes wrote in a letter to DeWine.

The City of Cleveland sued the state in 2016 after the Republican-passed bill directly conflicted with the city's Fannie Lewis law, a local ordinance requiring public construction be completed with at least 20 percent local labor. Akron similarly uses local hiring standards on more than \$1 billion in public works projects.

"Ohioans deserve a fair shot at good-paying local jobs because they

... continued on page 12



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Steven Steel: Packing Up His Public Office and Moving into a Private One

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

"I was fortunate enough to serve during the worst budget crunch since the Great Depression," says outgoing Toledo City Council President Steven Steel of his first half dozen years on council. "It was smoke and mirrors," he adds of the tasks the council and city administration started to face in 2008 as the recession took a stranglehold on the Rust Belt.

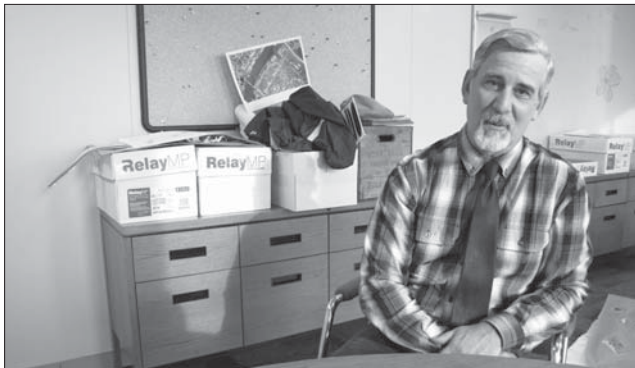
For Steel, who arrived on Council in 2009 after several years of service on the Toledo Board of Education which continually faces financial shortfalls, the good fortune he refers to are the lessons learned and the experience gained in managing the City's finances during such desperate times. Such lessons are invaluable at all times, even now that the big troubles have passed and the City's revenues have improved.

Now, as things improve, Steel is term-limited from continuing on the job but he predicts that the task of managing the City's finances won't necessarily become any easier. During the tough times, he remembers, unions, workers and those expecting services to be delivered, tended to work together to make concessions. "Because of those concessions, when will they want something back?" he asks. "Now the difficulty is working with more money."

However, as Steel reflects on his years of public service, revenue shortfalls have been the norm. "In my elective life, it's all I've ever known," he says. "Now that times are good, do I have to leave?" he says jokingly.

However, as he packs his office in preparation for his final hours in

... continued on page 12



Larry Sykes: City Council Presidency Is Next Goal

By Fletcher Word

Sojourner's Truth Editor

Toledo City Councilman Larry Sykes just won re-election to Council this past November and is ready to start his second term on the City's legislative body. This term, however, he wants to add a little something special to the mix. Sykes wants to serve as president of Council and is actively pursuing that goal as he tries to round up the necessary seven votes from his colleagues.

"There are a lot of things I see as president in terms of leadership that are missing," he says of the current structure. "We need someone who has the time to

work with our new people – we have new people and we have no orientation, no guidance on how to be on City Council"

The newly-elected councilmen (Nick Komives and Gary Johnson), notes Sykes, will be assigned to as many as five committees the moment they arrive and will "have to learn fast and quick," he adds.

Sykes, a retired banker, certainly brings a wealth of experience to the task. He spent years on the Toledo Board of Education before winning election to City Council and, over the years, has served on dozens of boards in the community, most notably Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority, Metroparks, United Way, Cordelia Martin and Planned Parenthood. He currently is on the boards of Lucas County Children Services, St. Vincent Mercy and the University of Toledo African American Community Advisory Committee.

"On the boards I have served on, I have left them better than when I started," he says. "These are key boards that have impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the community."

Sykes' main points of emphasis for his next term include neighborhood safety, the opioid crisis, early childhood education, implementing the lead safe ordinance which he led the fight to pass, responsible banking, diversity and inclusion, government consolidation/reorganization, regional water and information technology.

Sykes, very aware of the danger posed by lead in so many old central city buildings, is very proud of his involvement in getting the lead ordinance passed. "Going into the city [government] I was able to pass a lead ordinance that had been floating around for years," he recalls. It's an ordinance that has set a standard for other Ohio cities.

That sort of accomplishment is why Sykes feels he has evolved from a newly-elected councilman who did not know where to park when he first

... continued on page 13



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The Soulcial Scene

Fros, Fashions and Finds: Changing the Face of Black Beauty

By Megan Davis

The Truth Contributor

By now, we have seen it, the rise of the black beauty industry, ignited by the natural hair movement. A completely different genre of beauty and business in the black community that celebrates melanin, hair that defies gravity, and a culture that is deeper than fried chicken, watermelon and any other stereotypical idea of who black people are. Dominated by black women who, from the heart of their kitchens, worked diligently to create a new recipe for beauty and success, the natural hair industry has created layers of businesses that are for us, by us, unapologetically.

It started with blogs often powered by google, with cute usernames like "naturalgirl" or "curlydiva." These blogs followed individual journeys of the stages of transitioning to natural hair and beyond. What came next were the meet-ups, which are events that naturals could come together in their communities to learn about natural hair care and learn new techniques and styles. In Toledo, these have been held at libraries and other venues for 10 years. As more women began to embrace their natural hair, they also endeavored to be more health conscious in their choice of foods and hair and skin care products. Here is where people like the creators of Carol's Daughter, Miss Jessie's and Shea Moisture began to grow.

Companies like these all started in the homes of mixmasters, blending organic ingredients together to meet the growing needs of moisture, maintenance and manageability for the natural hair community. These companies have evolved from selling products out of their homes and car trunks to becoming instant successes with e-commerce websites where others outside their own communities could buy their products as well. Enter the Home Shopping Network which gave Lisa Price, Brooklyn native and creator of Carol's Daughter, first place in natural hair care when her products became the standard for black women everywhere who wanted some-



Lisa Price, Carol's Daughter

thing made by someone that looked like us. With some special funding and brand ambassadors like Jada Pinkett-Smith, her products became the upscale line for naturals. It was as if natural hair care went "Hollywood" and natural black hair had finally arrived.

Then from Long Island, New York, there came a man named Dennis Richelieu, founder of Nubian Heritage skin care and Shea Moisture hair care products. He, along with his grandmother and college friend, took homemade recipes and preparations to the next level with a brand rooted in his African heritage and became a household name in black hair care practically overnight. His products are even more widely available than others today, thanks to an infusion of investments from unlikely sources that has or his company in jeopardy. But we will come back to this.



Dennis Richelieu, Shea Moisture

Maybe it's a New York thing, but there is also Miss Jessie's, a company started by sisters Miko and Titi Branch. Their success was made from recipes in their kitchen also, trying out their concoctions on clients in their salon. Their products were all the rage until the market exploded and more mom and pop product companies rose to the occasion to establish their own companies to serve their communities. Miss Jessie's was one of the highest-priced natural hair companies of this kind.

When these companies rose to fame so quickly, natural hair expos and conventions, would become popular events that featured several vendors, small business owners and a combination of entertainment and education. It's here where small business development took on a life of its own. Expos like the Ohio Natural Hair, Health & Beauty Expo, held in Toledo annual, gave business owners an affordable opportunity to display their goods and services to the community and to connect consumers that a small business may otherwise not have been able to reach. The idea of these types of events has been to advertise your business to a large group of people in one day, giving each more than one way to connect with a business: meeting the owner, seeing and touching the products and learning how their good or service can work for the consumer; something that ads, especially social media shares aren't always able to accomplish.

This is also how word of mouth, referrals and networking have made their comeback. Businesses have new platforms at local events to be showcased and the impact it has had on the Industry is immense. Coupled with changing laws in some states for natural hair stylists who are being emancipated from unnecessary licensing requirements, the new, but old age of each one reach one has powered the new black beauty industry.


Gaining momentum, natural hair styles have been trending once celebrities like Issa Rae, Viola Davis and Tracee Ellis Ross began embracing their roots publicly. Insert cultural appropriation here. A movement that was established for melanated people with Afro hair, was growing around the world. That movement became the industry that remains viable even though the threat of a certain privilege is looming above it. Because later came the cosmetology industry who developed "professional" products that had an even higher price tag, discouraging consumers from buying homemade, stating the products weren't balanced enough for black hair. Insert the side eye emoji here, and hold it.



Issa Rae

Picture it, New York fashion week and a barrage of pale-skinned models are walking the runway donning dreadlocks and Bantu Knots, images that women of color were outraged by not only because they weren't represented, but also because it was as if someone snatched their child and paraded them around as if they were the "White Savior" rescuing them from themselves. This debut of African American hairstyles yielded a series of Youtube videos and short tutorials of more non-melanated women teaching their viewers

... continued on page 8



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The Soulcial Scene

St. Paul MBC Holds Annual Christmas Dinner on St. John the Evangelist Day

In the Mason tradition, said St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Pastor James Willis, his church celebrates two big feast days – one for St. John the Baptist and one, in December, for St. John the Evangelist. On Sunday, December 10, leaders from the Composite Lodge #108, the Amazon Lodge #4, the Jewel Chapter #20 and the Pride of Composite #81 came to St. Paul to join the congregation in their celebration and holiday feast.

“We are about charity,” said Willis prior to the Sunday service. Willis, who served as Grand Master of the Amazon Ledge from 2006 to 2009, also spoke of the importance of his brethren staying involved with the movement “so we can take care of widows and orphans.”

The Sunday service opened with a choral introit by the St. Paul MBC Choir, a call to worship, praise hymn, invocation and responsive reading.

After the recognition of the day’s special guests, selections by the choir, a scripture lesson, prayers and chants and offerings, the proclamation was delivered by Pastor Willis – “Is There Any Room for Jesus.”

After service, the congregation gathered in the downstairs banquet room for a feast of turkey, chicken, ham, green beans, potato salad and other delicacies and desserts prepared by members of the congregation.



Worshipful Master #108, Desmond Jones; Associate Matron #81, Carla Fitzgerald; Rev. James Willis, pastor of St. Paul MBC and president of American Baptist Churches of Ohio; Worthy Matron Wanda Terrell Galloway and Worshipful Master #4, Keith McWhite.



Girl Friends Holiday Party

Toledo Chapter of Girl Friends, Incorporated held their Holiday Party Sunday, December 17 hosted by Girl Friend Constance and Boy Friend Kwaku Nantwi. Over 25 Girl Friends, Boy Friends and guests attended the festive and fun filled event. The president of the chapter is Marie Latham Bush and the social chairman is Alisha Gant.



First row l to r: Constance Nantwi, Lori Osinowo, MD; Marie L. Bush, President; Wanda Brown, Odessa Rowan, Richelle Watkins. 2 row l to r: Aimee Fitzgerald, Valerie Thompson, Carolyn Lewis, Alisha Gant- Social Chairman. Toledo Girl Friends.



Standing – Mark Watkins, MD; Russel Harleston
Seated l to r – Ralph Lewis, Paul Hubbard, Kwaku Nantwi, Tony Gant, Harry Brown.

The Soulcial Scene

Wayman Palmer YMCA Christmas Party

Special to The Truth

Santa showed up and more than 300 children were entertained and received toys from Santa at the Wayman Palmer YMCA annual Christmas Party on Thursday December 11. The event, which also provided a luncheon buffet for the children and their parents, featured a number of musical performances by the children and festive decorations representing the holiday season.



Wayman Palmer YMCA Executive Director Eric Williams, Santa helper and Santa



The Buffalo Soldiers



Fros, Fashions and Finds... continued from page 6

how to achieve these styles. Marc Jacobs, a fashion designer who has been accused of cultural appropriation more than once, was under siege in a social media firestorm over his choice in hairstyles for his runway looks. His response was "funny how you don't criticize women of color for straightening their hair." Touche, Mr. Jacobs.

Cultural appropriation too, has taken on a new life. Natural women were just embracing their tight coils, kinks and waves when all of a sudden, old hair care lines that previously catered to the relaxed consumer, were now developing their own curly hair lines for women of color. The problem with this is the size of these companies like Dark and Lovely, Pantene, Cream of Natural and others; their ability to get on retail shelves has been and still is a lot easier than smaller companies to do. They may be behind in knowing black beauty trends, but their dollars and influence in the beauty market spread faster and smoother. Even with Miss Jessie's, Carol's Daughter and Shea Moisture, you most often had to order online, during a time where people of color were very apprehensive about purchasing anything online.

For the few natural hair product companies that saw massive success, it seemed that the buck stopped with those main three. While there are now hundreds of other smaller companies, that are chugging their way down the rail to success, the aforementioned companies pushed their product out just

in the nick of time. In order to stay relevant and successful, Carol's Daughter and Shea Moisture have been under much scrutiny for their recent financial partnerships with companies like L'Oreal, Bain Capital (which was noted to be linked to Mitt Romney) and Unilever, companies that are funded by "White Dollars" that provided an infusion of cash to these businesses in order to expand and be placed in more retail stores around the world. These decisions have left the conscious black shopper in a lurch over supporting companies that "sold out" to "the man." People noticed, as soon as these deals were made, that their marketing changed completely and, for those who purchased products regularly, also noticed that there was a change in the formula.

In the spring of 2017, an online ad by Shea Moisture showed several white women with wavy or curly hair, complaining about manageability and maintenance until they began using the products. As quickly as this became a viral video, black women were boycotting Shea Moisture on-the-spot, and began searching for other black-owned companies to support. Of course, there were



Khloe Kardashian wearing Bantu Knots

... continued on page 12



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Service changes effective January 7, 2018

TARTA.com/Winter2018

New daytime lineups for all TARTA weekday fixed-line services for
increased Downtown route connectivity every 30 minutes; effective Sunday, January 7, 2018.

- 1/4 Ottawa Hills/Sylvania/Sylvania Twp Call-A-Ride —
holiday service discontinued;
Sunday hours adjusted from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- 2 (currently 2M/H) Franklin Park Mall via Toledo Hospital —
schedule adjusted for lineup and routing changes with access to
ProMedica Toledo Hospital on all trips; 2H/M renamed to 2
- 3 North/South Crosstown — **NO CHANGES**
- 5 (currently 5R) Dorr via UT Main Campus/Walmart —
adjusted schedule for lineup and routing changes; no access to the
Independence/Nebraska/Richards loop; UT Transit Center: outbound only
- 6N/S King Road/City of Sylvania — **NO CHANGES**
- 8/29 Maumee/Waterville Call-A-Ride —
holiday service discontinued;
Sunday hours adjusted from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- 10 Rossford Call-A-Ride — schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 10L Rossford via Hollywood Casino — **NO CHANGES**
- 12 (currently 12/13) Front/Starr — schedule adjusted for lineup
and routing changes; all trips now clockwise; 12/13 renamed to 12
- 14 (currently 11/14) East Broadway/Oak —
schedule adjusted for lineup and routing changes;
all trips now clockwise direction; 11/14 renamed to 14
- 15A Summit/Suder/Alexis — schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 15E Summit/Point Place via Alexis —
schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 16 Alexis via Meijer — schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 17B Lagrange/Bennett via Miracle Mile —
schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 17E Lagrange/Eleanor via Miracle Mile —
schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 19F Cherry/Franklin Park —
schedule adjusted for lineup and routing changes; no access to Laskey/Secor
- 19T Cherry/Tremainsville —
schedule adjusted for lineup and routing changes to absorb Laskey/Secor
- 20F (currently 24) Central Ave/Franklin Park Mall —
schedule adjusted for lineup and routing changes; to absorb route 24
between Downtown and Delaware/Detroit; no access to ProMedica
Toledo Hospital; Franklin Park via Central/Talmadge;
no access to Executive Parkway/Secor Rd
- 20M Central/Meijer Drive — schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 20W (currently 24T) Ottawa Hills via Westgate —
Ottawa Hills via Westgate; schedule adjusted for lineup changes;
24T renamed to 20W
- 20 (currently 20/24) Central/Westgate/Walmart —
no route or schedule changes; 20/24 renamed to 20

- 22 Bancroft via UT Campus/Franklin Park Mall —
schedule adjusted for lineup changes;
no access to Harvest/Sylvania
- 26D Berdan/Douglas/Miracle Mile —
schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 26L Lewis/Alexis/Miracle Mile —
schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 27H Nebraska/Hill-Reynolds —
schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 27N Nebraska/South-Reynolds (currently Airport-Wenz)
— schedule adjusted for lineup and routing changes; no access to
Reynolds/Angola/Wenz/Airport loop; to be covered by route 32H
- 28 Indiana/Smead/Oakwood (currently 28/30) —
lineup schedule and routing adjusted; clockwise direction with
28/30; renamed to 28
- 29X Waterville Express — **NO CHANGES**
- 31G Glendale/Southwyck —
schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 31H Heatherdowns/Southwyck —
schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 32H South/Airport via Home Depot —
schedule adjusted for lineup and routing changes; no access to
Southwyck Blvd; Reynolds/Angola/Wenz/Airport loop added
- 32R UTM/Southwyck — schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 34 Detroit/Byrne/Western via UTM —
schedule adjusted for lineup changes
- 35 Airport/Maumee-Arrowhead — **NO CHANGES**
- 39 Franklin Park/City of Sylvania — **NO CHANGES**
- 39M Monroe/Sylvania-Centennial — **NO CHANGES**
- 41 Glendale-Southland/Maumee-Arrowhead —
schedule and Downtown routing adjusted
- 43 Maumee-Arrowhead/Western via UTM — **NO CHANGES**
- 44X St. Luke's Hospital — **NO CHANGES**

**Lineups
all day,
every day**

School Day Routes

- 11A/B East Broadway Crosstown — **NO CHANGES**
- 18A/B/C Sylvania Avenue Crosstown — **NO CHANGES**
- 20A/B Upton Avenue Crosstown — **NO CHANGES**
- 27A/B/C Reynolds Road Crosstown — **NO CHANGES**
- 34A/B/C Airport Highway Crosstown — **NO CHANGES**
- 36A/B Hawley Crosstown — *afternoon schedule adjusted*
- 37A/B Central Avenue Crosstown — **NO CHANGES**

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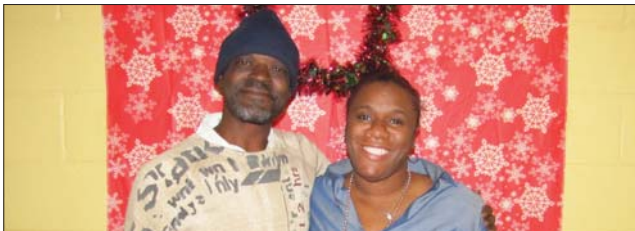
The Soulcial Scene

Junction Coalition Holds Christmas Party for Members and Family

On Friday, December 15, the Junction Coalition held its first Christmas party for its board members, staff and families at the Frederick Douglass Community Association. About 50 Junction volunteers and family member attended the event.

The Junction Coalition was recently honored for community work at Ohio Environmental Council State Dinner with former Governor Ted Strickland. He shared how proud he is of Toledo's very capable Honorable Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, Esq., and the hard work that she is doing for the city!

... continued on page 11



FDCA Volunteer Security and Maintenance Bernard Griffin and Alicia Smith



Alexis Smith, Alicia Smith, Megan Powell

Blue Gill Fishing Club's Christmas Party

The members of the Blue Gill Fishing Club held their annual Christmas Party on December 19 at their clubhouse on Junction Avenue and the 14 members hosted greeted about 30 guests and raised funds to donate money to two worthy community organizations.

Ham, chicken, collard greens, tossed salads and macaroni and cheese were some of the menu items the members and guests enjoyed after the funds were passed out. On hand to receive the donations of \$250 each were Harvey Savage, executive director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Kitchen for the Poor and Shawna Woody, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club.

Blue Gill Fishing Club was organized in 1992 by five community men. "It was first a social club, we would take fishing trips together at least once a year. We still fish once a year, but we've grown in the services we provide to the community. We provide hot dogs for youth during the summer at the nearby park," said Al Chapman one of the original club members.



Shawna Woody (left) receives check from Blue Gill members



Harvey Savage (center) receives check from Al Chapman (left) and other Blue Gill members



Blue Gill members

The Soulcial Scene

Junction Coalition... continued from page 10

The Junction will partner with local residents as well as institutions generally to assist the surrounding disenfranchised community and stand against injustice. Aware of the dehumanizing aspects of systemic poverty, the Junction Coalition plans to work for the Junction neighborhood as a guiding force for systemic change to alleviate poverty. Building on the four pillars of social justice, economic justice, environmental justice, and peace education, the Coalition plans to work toward: planning, organizing, directing, and coordinating economic revitalization activities, developing and redeveloping within the boundaries of the Junction community and improving the quality of life for all neighborhood and community stakeholders, especially low-income residents.



Anique Davis and Reche, Avontae, Diamond, Anastie ans Ry'Lee



Malaya and Faith Ebert and Grandmother Deborah Robinson

Fros, Fashions and Finds... continued from page 8

questions raised when Dove did a similar thing that didn't receive the same response. Perhaps because it was expected from a company like that to create an ad that disgraced the African-American esthetic, but when it was black, it was personal. And we still watch BET..To date, Shea Moisture barely made it past that debacle which has claimed thousands, maybe millions of consumer dollars, and now they have been acquired by a UK company, Unilever. Quite possibly, they had to sell in order to stay on the market at all after that lest they fold under the pressure of letting women of color down.

With larger corporations trying to get in on the success of what the natural hair movement has created, consumers are constantly doing research and also standing on opposing sides at times. Because the corporations have implanted their dollars into black companies, they have watered down their products and lowered the prices to sell more, but never as cheap as their own products. What used to sound like exotic, one of a kind formulas in Carol's Daughter products such as Monoi oil, has now been emulated across retail shelves in Sally's, Walmart and all the beauty supply stores across the country at a fraction of the price of "our" products. Consumers are constantly faced with trying to finding more for less, and the major corporations who have pushed out their own "natural" lines, make it hard for people to choose.

If these things aren't enough to see how the face of Black Beauty is being changed, then perhaps this last example will confirm how something naturally ours is being kidnapped by those who want greenbacks off "our" backs. Locs, which is a hairstyle that requires a commitment from an individual to grow down to their waist over a period of seven-10 years, can be purchased 20 for \$5.99 at any local non-chain beauty supplier. The loc jewelry that black women were making by hand and selling online on sites such as Etsy, which celebrates handmade artisans, can now be purchased five or so for \$0.99. Shea butter that we can source fair trade from vendors who have partnerships with the people of Ghana is now being processed and stretched out and sold in small containers for \$3.00 or more. And if your Afro doesn't have defined curls, you can buy a bag of them for \$4.99 and attach it to your own hair for free if you watch a how-to video online.

The curls that we grow naturally, in all their glory, are being worn by white models and actresses of color, by way of wigs and weaves, both items that discourage women from wearing their own hair. Let's also throw in the fact that what once was a crown of glory, the Afro, is now a banner of shame since product companies have developed several items that stretch, elongate and smooth naturally curly hair to make it more presentable and manageable. The natural hair movement birthed an industry that was made for us by us, growing exponentially between 2007-2017 and is now being appropriated and monopolized by white and light brown people, the lowest bidders, a repeat of the Madam C.J. Walker era. Black Beauty has changed faces again, but if we have changed the industry twice before, we can do it again. Stay tuned for the next Fros, Fashions and Finds where we discover how.

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Steven Steel...continued from page 5

elected office and thinks about the major frustrations of the past years, revenue shortfalls are not at the top of the list. There are two major frustrations that he recalls.

First, he mentions the limited ability of council members to fulfill expectations on their own.

"I noticed this during the recent elections," he

says. "People [council candidates] would say 'I'm going to fix the streets, bring in jobs, improve education.' But council's ability is extremely limited – we don't determine jobs or streets to be paved; we don't deploy. We are a liaison not a decision maker. We appropriate money but the city administration decides what to do [with that money]."

Reflecting on his relationships with the four administrations he has served with, the council president recalls good relations with all four. He singles out Mike Bell for his handling of "the most difficult of economic times" and his responsiveness to that difficulty.

Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson has earned Steel's admiration for her relationship with City Council. "She had the best handle on the frustrations of City Council," he adds.

And Steel's second major frustration over the past eight-plus years has been with the internal workings of council. Having come from a five-body Board of Education where it was comparatively easy to put together a stable three-person majority on a variety of issues and votes, the change was dramatic.

Toledo City Council's 12-person body requires a seven-person majority and that leads to so much more fluidity. "Here, alliances ebb and flow," he says. "You may think someone is with you but, if they are, it is the exception not the rule."

There is quite a lot that Steel is satisfied with as he thinks about the last eight years. Money shortages notwithstanding, Steel, a long-time Old West End resident, feels that Toledo has become a much "cooler city" in which to live – bike paths, golf carts downtown, for example, the growth of entertainment districts and commercial and retail establishments.

Companies such as Cleveland Cliffs have brought more jobs, the hospitals are growing and downtown is surging.

He leaves the 21st floor of One Government Center "cautiously optimistic" about the progress the city has made. "We've turned a corner with the economy and downtown – but a lot of infrastructure and neighborhoods need work."

Even though he will no longer be an elected official, Steel's commitment to improving the lives of his fellow citizens will remain an important part of his daily tasks.

During the last few years Steel earned a law degree and started a part-time practice in labor and employment law. He will be employed full-time in January "protecting people's rights," as he says. "I'm going to be protecting those who are easily exploitable."

Sykes...continued from page 4

have a stake in rebuilding the communities where they live and raise their families," Sykes continued. "By putting money back in the hands of Ohio workers, local hiring ordinances like Cleveland's Fannie Lewis Law are strengthening local businesses and giving workers the opportunity to get ahead. Without local hiring ordinances, investments would be more likely to flow to out of state companies and workers with no stake in the health and success of our regional economies."

Sykes said she plans to introduce legislation in the new year that will strengthen Ohio communities' ability to make decisions about local hiring standards.

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American Radical by Tamer Elnoury with Kevin Maurer

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Let's pretend.

Let's be cowboys, in search of our lost herd. Or you be a dinosaur and I'll be an alligator. Let's pretend we're cooking dinner, crawling through the desert, exploring stars. It's fun to be something you're not for awhile – unless, as in *American Radical* by Tamer Elnoury (with Kevin Maurer), it's a matter of international security.

Born in Egypt and raised in New Jersey by devout Muslim parents, Tamer Elnoury saw an armed man praying at a local mosque one afternoon and it made him realize that he wanted to be a cop. He'd set his sights on federal law enforcement and, shortly after graduation from the police academy, the FBI to come courting but Elnoury turned them down. Post-9/11, he wondered if he'd made a mistake.

He reached back out to the Bureau. Seven years later, they returned his call.

As a newly-minted FBI agent who spoke fluent Arabic and English, Elnoury's first task was coming up with a "legend" for his undercover work. He needed a story that was memorable and believable: a pseudonym; a fake family, and a reason for breaking the law. He had to make a target *like* him without questioning his identity, or he needed to "bump" the guy to "take his temperature."

But being someone you're not is exhausting work: Elnoury remained in his role nearly every minute he wasn't with other agents or a "handler." Apartments he occupied weren't his, nor were the cars he drove. His attire had to fit the story. A case might mean several cross-country flights in a single week. Perhaps most difficult: he had to hide his own "disgust" while he continued gathering information.

That ability came in handy in his biggest case.

Dutton
c.2017
\$28.00 / \$37.00 Canada
349 pages

Elnoury was a busy agent with a packed schedule on the day he got an urgent call: the FBI and Canadian officials were investigating a "very bad guy" they believed had ties to al Qaeda – or worse. Or maybe not. Learning more would require finesse, and Elnoury's part was supposed to be a quick "bump."

And it chilled him to his core...

The first thing you'll want to do before you read *American Radical* is this: throw out everything you think you know about Islam if you're not Muslim.

Authors Tamer Elnoury (a pseudonym) and Kevin Maurer stress, often and specifically, what's in the Quran and what Islamic terrorists *claim* is in the Quran. Those are two different things, the explanation of which makes readers understand clearly the danger Elnoury faced with a guy who might've been a friend, were it not for the man's radical beliefs. Quiet mindfulness mixes with straining awareness, frustration, and "evil" then, adding to the tension of a tale and an aftermath that, even though parts of this book needed to be omitted for security reasons and conversations were partially re-created, reads like a palm-sweaty, heart-pounding thriller.

And isn't that what you want for a long winter's read? Eh, of course it is, so go find *American Radical*. You're gonna love it, for real.

Larry Sykes... continued from page 5

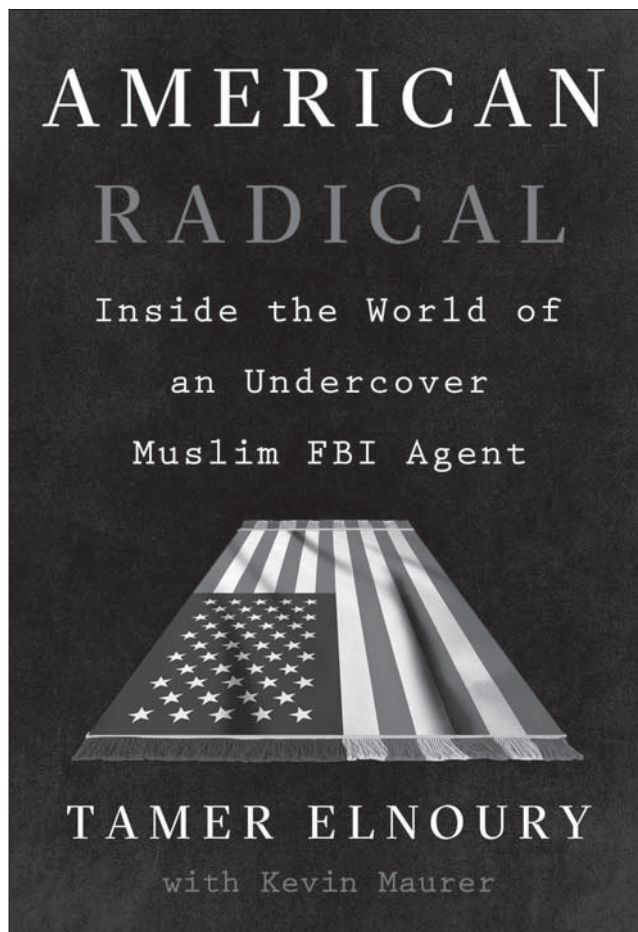
arrived on council four years ago, into an effective legislator and a leader among his peers.

"I have the knowledge, the talent, the time and the resources," he says of his qualifications to lead City Council effectively over the next four years. "I have a better understanding of the City and how it works and the finance committee has done work that has led to outstanding reports on City finances from Standard and Poor's [Financial Services] and Moody's [Investors Services] and from the state government."

Knowledge, talent, time and resources notwithstanding, Sykes has a few challenges to overcome in his quest. No stranger to controversy, he is now faced with the recent publicity that surrounded him following an altercation with a community activist that brought about the involvement of law enforcement and caused charges to be filed. And it brought on Sykes' head, the condemnation of The Blade.

"Do I worry about The Blade? I can't," he says. And he advises his colleagues not to worry either. The impact of that advice is yet to be determined.

Meanwhile Sykes will continue to seek the presidency and to take pride in what he has achieved as an elected official. He did not raise a great deal of money during this last campaign for office and he feels no ties to any sort of special interests. "The only ones I'm obligated to are my constituents and the community," he says.



CLASSIFIEDS

Page 14

December 27, 2017

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **Metroparks Structure Replacement Over Neis Ditch, 3520 Waterville – Swanton Road, Swanton, Ohio 43558** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, January 12, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of the replacement of the bridge carrying a drive over Neis Ditch at the Metroparks Cannalee property with a precast concrete culvert, reconstruction of the stone drive at the bridge, clearing and grubbing, excavation, embankment, riprap and erosion control. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$20 is required for each set of documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

No bidder may withdraw its bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any informality in bidding.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on **LUC – Metroparks Paving Phase 2, Metroparks of the Toledo Area, Lucas County, Ohio - PID 106241** will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, February 2, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of asphalt resurfacing and paving of Metropark's Fallen Timbers parking lot, Wildwood Preserve public roadway, Tupelo Way in Secor Metropark, Providence Dam Area parking lot in Providence Metropark, and Rotary Pavilion parking lot in Side Cut Metropark. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$25 is required for each set of documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

The bidder must be an Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) pre-qualified contractor. Pre-qualification status must be in force at the time of bid, at the time of award, and through the life of the construction contract.

The Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) goal for this project is minimum five percent (5%).

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for bidding on Oak Openings Corridor Trail Phase I, Wiregrass Lake Metropark to Secor Metropark, Spencer Township, Lucas County Ohio will be received; opened; and read aloud at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537 **Friday, January 19, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** local time.

THE SCOPE OF WORK consists of the construction of 1.62 miles of multi-use trail from Wiregrass Lake Metropark to Secor Metropark. General construction includes select demolitions, clearing and grubbing, 12 foot wide aggregate path on-grade, 488 feet of precast concrete boardwalk system on a helical pier foundation, drainage culverts, asphalt approaches, pavement markings and signage. Bidders may obtain copies of plans, specifications, contract documents and plan-holder's list through Newfax Corporation, 333 West Woodruff, Toledo, Ohio 43604 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (check made payable to Newfax Corporation) or via the Newfax Digital Plan Room at www.newfaxcorp.com. Newfax can be contacted at 419-241-5157 or 800-877-5157. A non-refundable fee of \$30 is required for each set of documents obtained. For additional information, please contact Jon Zvanovec @ 419-360-9184, jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com.

EACH BIDDER MUST FURNISH either (1) a bond for the full amount of the bid or (2) a certified check, cashier's check or irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the bid with its bid. The successful bidder must furnish a 100 percent (100%) Performance Bond and a 100 percent (100%) Labor and Materials Bond.

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By order of the Board of Park Commissioners
METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA

David D. Zenk, Executive Director

The Soulcial Scene

Beautiful Black Women Photoshoot #2

On Saturday December 16 at the Rustbelt Coffee shop, Kool2dos and Transitions by John Poon joined forces again to showcase some of Toledo's beautiful black women. This was the second shoot of a three-part series. The first event was held in October.

The initial event had such a great turnout, John Poon and Keith Cook knew they had to do it again.

Rustbelt coffee is a trendy coffee shop located on Ontario in downtown Toledo. It was once an antique shop. It has beautiful exposed brick, antique wood and high ceilings, perfect back drop to showcase the beautiful women in attendance.

Nothing but good vibes filled the conference area at Rustbelt as the ladies began to arrive. The shy kittens who walked in left as confident lionesses after their personal shoot with the photographer. It was great to see women all flavors, and walks of life, enjoy good conversation, food and peach (virgin) Ciroc Bellini all prepared by Cook. He truly worked hard to treat women like royalty.

Cook has done events and promotion since he attended BGSU, he has been a comedian since 2009. When asked why he wanted to do the BBW

event he stated without hesitation "The media, society and even our culture does not celebrate Black, Latino, Asian women. If no one else is going to do it, we must start with our own".

Poon has been shooting portraits for the last eight years. He was honored to be a part of BBW event. "Black is beautiful, we were not taught to celebrate ourselves in school, they only focused on the negative aspects of our history. Black women play strong role in the home and in society." He said. He was flattered to be a part of celebrating sisters in a positive way.

Ladies, get ready for the finale. It will be held at M'Osteria and Bar, February 3 starting at 2 p.m. Make some new friends and let JP showcase your unique style and personality. Participants have access to personal catalog online and are able to select up to five images from the shoot for \$50 registration fee. JP will also print images upon request.

For more information on BBW event follow Keith Cook @koolcomedy and JP @Transitions by John Poon. To register for other events organized by Kool2Dos/Koolcomedy at www.eventbrite.com. Check out Transitions by JP online at <http://johnpoon.wix.com/jptransition1>



Bethany Stockard



Tatya



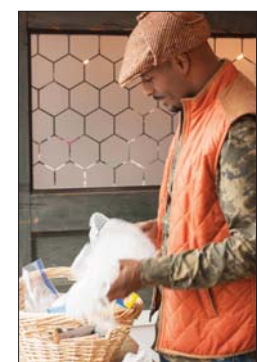
LaDraia Gullatt



JP and Keith Test Shots



JP and Keith Test Shots



Keith setting up



Alpha Phi Boule's Annual Christmas Party – Christmas Is for Archousai!

The men – Archons – of the Alpha Phi Boule held their annual holiday party at the Toledo Country Club on December 5 honoring, as always, the Archousai – wives and partners of the members.

The annual Christmas party, always a black tie affair, is an opportunity for the Boule members and wives to display their finery and revel in the festive holiday spirit with their friends. And, as always, music, fine dining and conviviality mark the occasion.



The Archons



The Archousai



*Joseph and Olivia Sommerville
and Thomas Winston*



Pariss Coleman and Billie Johnson



*Frank Aldridge and
Kaye Patten*



*Linnie and Rev.
James Willis*



*Paul and Paul Jr.
Hubbard*



*Vince Davis and
Pariss Coleman*



*Richard Jr. and
Richard Jackson*



*Temple and Judge C.
Allen McConnell*



Thomas Winston